

REMARKS BY
MR. OMAR SWEENEY
MANAGING DIRECTOR
JAMAICA SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND

FOR
HANDING OVER CEREMONY

FOR

**DUTCH HILL NEW TESTAMENT COG BASIC SCHOOL UPGRADING AND
COMPLETION**

ULSTER SPRING BASIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING

RAYMOTH NOTICE BASIC SCHOOL EXPANSION AND SANITATION UPGRADE

CLARENCE BRIMM BASIC SCHOOL EXPANSION AND SANITATION UPGRADE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2015

AT

CLARENCE BRIMM BASIC SCHOOL

TROY

TRELAWNY

SALUTATIONS

- ✓ CHAIRMAN – Rev. Markel Wright, Chairman of Wire Fence Basic School

- ✓ Hon. Ronald Thwaites, Minister of Education

- ✓ Mrs. Marisa Dalrymple-Philbert, Member of Parliament

- ✓ Mrs. Pauline Brown, Principal of Clarence Brimm Basic School

- ✓ Mr. David Foster, Development Officer, Early Childhood Commission

It is with great pleasure that I bring greetings on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) on this occasion.

Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. We at the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) support this notion, and are committed to doing our part in not only contributing to this change, but to **be** that change.

Since our inception in 1996 and 19 years of investing in education projects, the JSIF has expended some JA\$10 Billion. These interventions take the form of:

- School building and enhancements
- Erection of Sanitation facilities in schools
- Provision of water systems and facilities and
- Providing necessary equipment for schools

The partnership between the Ministry of Education and the JSIF is an excellent one where collaboratively the JSIF works with the Ministry, its Agencies, Parent Teachers Associations and communities to enhance the environment for learning. This partnership has evolved over the years, with JSIF constructing and rehabilitating the schools and providing equipment to most recently supporting other key priority areas of the Ministry.

These areas include supporting the Ministry's efforts in improving literacy and numeracy.

Our modus operandi continues to be working through partnerships between central and local government, communities as well as private and public institutions, and international funding partners. Let me at this juncture say thanks to all our partners past and present, without whom, much of our efforts would not be possible.

Today we meet to officially hand over the:

- Dutch Hill New Testament COG Basic School Upgrading completed at a cost of **JA\$23M**
- Ulster Spring Basic School Construction and Equipping at a cost of **JA\$30.2M**
- Raymoth Notice Basic School expansion and sanitary Upgrade at a cost of **JA\$16M** and
- Clarence Brimm Basic School expansion and Sanitary upgrade at a project cost of **JA\$33M**

In summary, our efforts resulted in the building and/or provision of:

- ✓ 7 new classrooms
- ✓ 4 Kitchens including upgrades
- ✓ 4 Sick Bays
- ✓ Construct 2 Administrative areas

- ✓ 4 Sanitary facilities
- ✓ 1 Sewer Drainage system
- ✓ 4 water tanks
- ✓ 3 Pumps
- ✓ Perimeter fencing for 2 schools
- ✓ 6 sets of teachers tables and chairs
- ✓ 80 student tables and chairs
- ✓ 4 Play areas with equipment
- ✓ Rehabilitation of 1 School Building
- ✓ Classroom equipment for 1 school
- ✓ 2 stoves and
- ✓ 2 refrigerators.

So overall, these 4 sub-projects came in at a cost of JAS\$ 102.2M. All these projects were made possible with funding from the Government of Jamaica and the Caribbean Development Bank's (CDB) Community Investment Project (CIP). A total of 229 students and teachers are the first cohort of students that will benefit directly from these upgraded schools.

Nelson Mandela was absolutely correct. It is through education that we will once and for all break the poverty cycle in our Society. I am therefore appealing to all the parents and guardians present here today to support your children. Make sure they never miss a day of school. Get involved in the life

and work of the school. Never ever stand by and allow anyone to vandalize these schools. They are the community's resource and must be maintained and secured. Work with the teachers. Keep track of your children's progress. The quality of their future depends on it.

On behalf of JSIF, let me wish for each of these four (4) communities and schools, a major revolution in how we prepare our young people for the challenging world ahead.

Thanks and best wishes to you all.

November 2, 2015